

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 21, 2007, Applicants amended claims 1, 6, 7 and 9. Claims 1-3, 5-12, and 14 are presented for examination.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichinose in view of Yu. As amended, these claims cover articles that include a photovoltaically active layer, an electrode and leakage connectors disposed on the electrode, where the photovoltaically active layer includes an organic material and the electrode includes an organic material. Neither Ichinose nor Yu disclose or suggest such articles. Nor is there any suggestion to combine these references to provide such articles. To the contrary, Ichinose said that he had the object of providing a photovoltaic element that exhibited good initial characteristics and long term dependability. (Ichinose, col. 4, lines 9-11.) In this regard, Ichinose disclosed:

We were able to obtain a photovoltaic element of good initial characteristics and long term dependability, because at least one of the following is used for the semiconductor layer: monocrystal silicon, polycrystalline silicon, thin film polycrystalline silicon, amorphous silicon, amorphous silicon-germanium or amorphous silicon-carbon. (Id., col. 8, lines 51-57.)

After reading this, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to modify Ichinose's device with the use of photovoltaically active layer that includes an organic material. Thus, without conceding that the Examiner's characterization of either Ichinose or Yu is accurate, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to combine these references in the manner suggested by the Examiner to provide the subject matter covered by claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-12 and 14.¹ Applicants therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

¹ Applicants also do not concede that, even if Ichinose and Yu were combined, the result would be the subject matter covered by claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-12 and 14.

The Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichinose, Yu and Friend. As amended, claim 7 covers articles that include a photovoltaically active layer, an electrode and leakage connectors disposed on the electrode, where the photovoltaically active layer includes an organic material and the electrode includes an organic material. But, for at least the reasons noted above, there is no suggestion to combine Ichinose, Yu and Friend to provide the subject matter covered by claim 7.² Thus, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance, and request such action. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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² Applicants do not concede that the Examiner's characterization of Friend is accurate. Nor do Applicants concede that, even if Ichinose, Yu and Friend were combined, the result would be the subject matter covered by claim 7.